

**Appln. No.: 10/599,301**

**Reply to Office action of March 17, 2008**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1-12(Cancelled).

13(Currently Amended). A piston ring having at least one operating surface, an upper face and a lower face, where the operating surface includes an HVOF-applied layering having a surface roughness factor  $R_k < 0.12\mu\text{m}$  and a porosity of  $< 5\%$ , and wherein at least one of the upper and lower faces has a trapezoidal form adjacent said operating surface ~~[[is]]~~ provided with a galvanic protective layer.

14(Previously Presented). The piston ring according to claim 13 wherein the layering has a surface roughness factor of  $R_k < 0.10\mu\text{m}$ .

15(Previously Presented). The piston ring according to claim 13 wherein the layering has a surface roughness factor  $R_k < 0.08\mu\text{m}$ .

16(Previously Presented). The piston ring according to claim 13 wherein the layering comprises carbide materials.

17(Previously Presented). The piston ring according to claim 13, wherein the layering is made of carbide materials selected from the group consisting of WC and/or TiC, and/or CrC.

18(Canceled).

19(Canceled).

20(Canceled).

21(Currently Amended). The piston ring according to claim ~~[[20]]~~13 wherein the galvanic protective layer is chrome-based material applied on said trapezoidal form immediately adjacent said operating surface.